



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

Seldom does an individual exceed his own expectations. - Anonymous

Friday, February 22, 2008

IDOC will host a National Mental Health Conference, "Unlock the Mystery: Managing Mental Health from Corrections to Community," June 23-25, 2008. It will spotlight solutions for managing the growing number of mentally ill, substance abuse, and sex offender populations. For information, visit www.idoc.in.gov then click on 2008 National Mental Health Conference on left column, or visit <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection/unlockingthemystery/index.htm> (all documents can be found here).

Commendations go out to Geoff Jankowski, South Bend Juvenile teacher, for his quick response to a potentially life-threatening situation. When food became lodged in another staff person's throat and prevented her from breathing, Mr. Jankowski performed the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging the food and allowing her to breathe again.

The Westville PLUS Unit held its first Marriage Enrichment Weekend. Nine offenders from the PLUS Unit and their significant others attended the seminar led by PLUS Unit volunteers, WCC staff and Central Office Directors.

Henryville Correctional Facility initiated a new offender work crew for the city of Austin. With the addition of this crew, Henryville has 22 work crews with five manned by DOC officers and 17 crews manned by civilian employees. All civilian crew supervisors must attend 30 hours of mandated training annually through the training officer.

Six members of the Kappa Delta Pi sorority went to the Providence Library at Pendleton Juvenile Facility to repair books. They donated supplies and seven boxes of books to the library. In addition, the sorority has gained a \$1,000 grant to use to support the library.

Officers from the Marion County Superior Court Probation Department toured Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility for training purposes. Several information sessions were conducted throughout the facility where key personnel answered the officers' questions and concerns.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility CLIFF Unit assisted the Salvation Army with food distribution. Distributions were made to several area food banks, rescue missions and day care centers.

The Indiana State Prison Emergency Response Team raised over \$650 for the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge.

Sandra Hawkins, Adjunct Professor Criminal Justice, Purdue University Calumet and 16 students were given a tour of the Indiana State Prison and were allowed to speak to an offender and ask questions. Howard Morton, Executive Assistant, was presented a plaque from the student body of Purdue Calumet.

"The Voice from Behind the Wall" program at Indiana State Prison had 45 Chesterton High School students learn first hand from an offender the pitfalls associated with making the wrong decisions in life.

Correctional Industrial Facility held a celebration of Black History Month. The audience included approximately 80 offenders, facility staff and volunteers. At Pendleton Correctional Facility, Indianapolis Deputy Mayor of Neighborhoods Olgen Williams was guest speaker during a Black History Program. Commissioner Donahue also spoke at the event for offenders and volunteers from the community.

The Correctional Industrial Facility sold KFC dinners to the offender population. The proceeds went to the PLUS Program and a nearby charity.

The Edinburgh Correctional Facility held a Winter Graduation Ceremony to recognize GED graduates, Literacy and Life Skills completers, and Thinking for a Change completers.

Camp Summit recognized 35 students this week for successfully completing the Keys to Success Program.

Branchville Correctional Facility and Oakland City University held their Fall Deans' List Banquet for 52 offenders.